

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Draft Environmental Review of Fish Introduction

Description of water body and action:

Name: **Pelican Point Pond**
County: Cascade
Legal Description: T20N R1W S 30
Water Code: 17-9393

Pelican Point Pond #1 is located at Pelican Point FAS 6.1 miles SE of Cascade. It receives an average of 315 angler days per year. In 2009 it received 391 AD. FWP also uses this pond for Hooked on Fishing education programs with area schools. The North Middle School Fishing Club uses this for an education site. It is a reclaimed gravel pit pond with a maximum depth of 15 feet and is 21.4 surface acres. It harbors largemouth bass, black crappie and yellow perch. It was stocked one time with rainbow trout in 2003. FWP is proposing to stock brook trout to maximize angling quality in this fishery.

Name of the drainage where the pond is located:

The reservoir is located near the Missouri River.

Fish species proposed for introduction:

Brook trout.

Is this species legally present in the drainage? Brook trout occur in the mainstem Missouri River drainage in low numbers and are found in higher densities in some tributary streams.

Species of Special Concern in the drainage:

There are no species of special concern in the immediate vicinity.

Risks:

Inlets to or outlets from the pond? Yes X No **Explain:** The pond is located near the Missouri River. The water source is ground water and a small spring on the N, NW corner. There is no inlet or outlet to the pond.

Potential for impacts on the genetic structure of existing fish populations:

 None X Minor Major

Stocked fish would have no negative impacts on the genetics of other species in the pond or the Missouri River.

Impacts to any life stage of existing fish populations due to competition and/or predation:

 None X Minor Major

The stocked fish would likely eat small fish in the pond. It is unlikely there would be any impacts at the population level.

Impacts to other forms of aquatic life that may be caused by this introduction: ___None
___X_Minor _____ Major

It is unlikely that there will be additional impacts, although the brook trout will consume invertebrates in the pond.

Potential for the proposed new species to reproduce in this location: ___None
___X_Minor _____ Major

Brook trout would not likely reproduce.

If necessary would it be feasible to remove this species after it has been stocked?

Brook trout could be controlled exclusively by stocking and by managing the predatory fish (bass) that are present in the pond.

Would this introduction result in impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable?

No.

Describe reasonable and prudent alternatives to this action, if any (including no action).

No action. The proposed action is intended to maximize the angling potential. Not taking this proposed action would maintain status quo and the existing level of angling quality/opportunity.

Describe and evaluate mitigation, stipulations or other control measures enforceable by the agency, if any.

Fish stocking would be a beneficial action. Increasing the angling quality could result in more public use of the area. This is the desired consequence. The pond is managed as a walk-in area. Ample vehicle parking areas exist at the site.

List all agencies and individuals that may be affected by the proposed introduction.

FWP

List all agencies and individuals who have been notified of this proposed introduction.

FWP.

Based on this evaluation, is an EIS required YES/NO? If no explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for the proposed actions. No. Action expected to be minor.

EA prepared by: Grant Grisak, Fisheries Biologist

Date: March 17, 2011. **Comments accepted until:** Comments will be accepted at any time regarding the planting program for Pelican Point Pond #1. The proposed action is not anticipated to be potentially controversial and consequently would need no public comment period. If no comments are received by March 31, 2011, we proposed to issue a decision notice.

Comments should be sent to: Grant Grisak, MFWP, 4600 Giant Springs Road, Great Falls, MT. 59405.

Email address: ggrisak@mt.gov

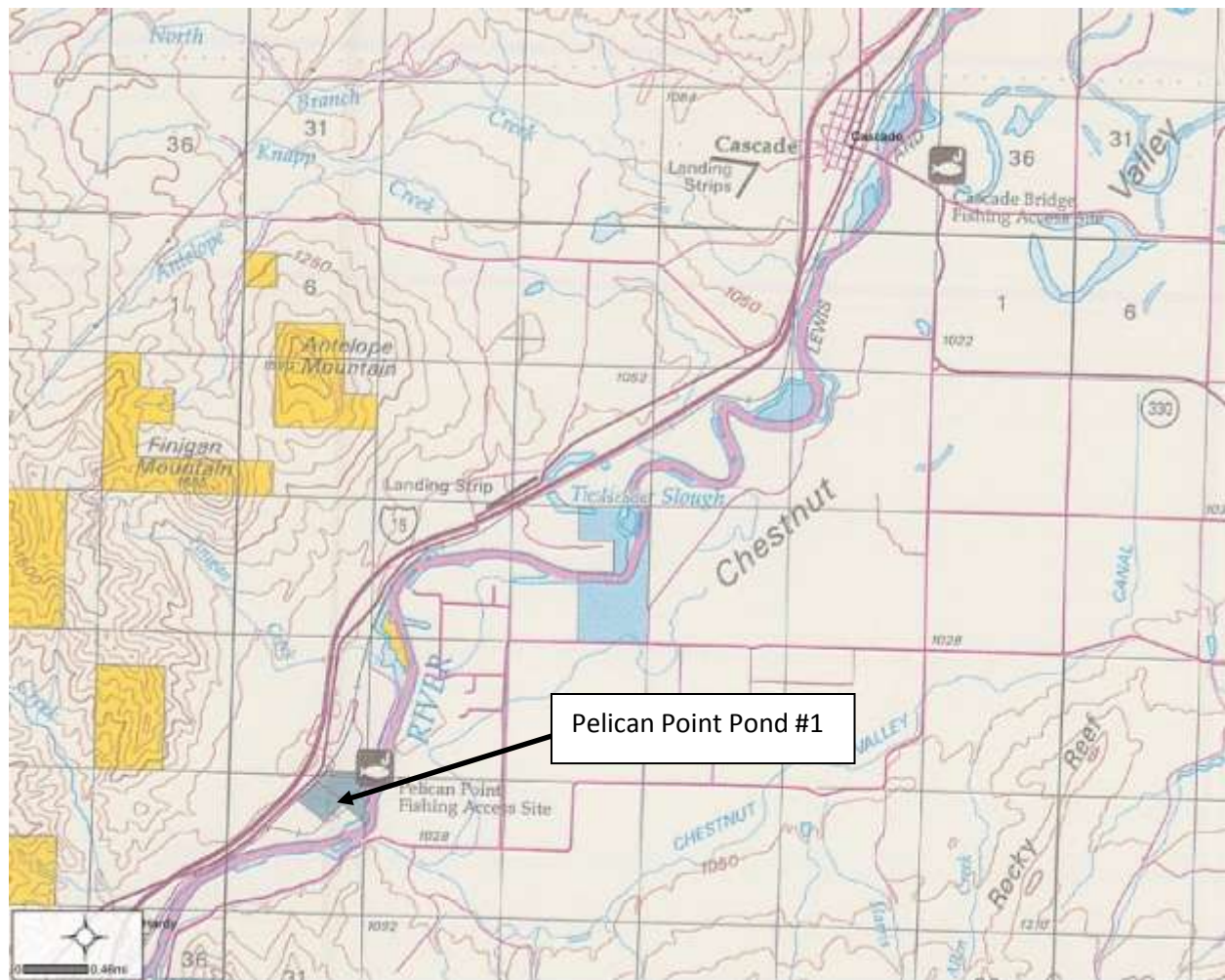


Figure 1. Map of Cascade area showing Pelican Point Pond #1.